

The Times.

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THE TIMES COMPANY.

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THE MAILING LIST IS ONLY PRINTED
ONCE EVERY SEVEN DAYS.
IF YOU DO NOT FEEL UNKIND,
IF THE DATE OPPOSITE YOUR NAME
ON THE LITTLE PINK SLIP IS NOT
CHANGED AS SOON AS THE SUB-
SCRIPTION IS RENEWED.

WE DESIRE TO CALL THE ATTENTION
OF ALL PERSONS SENDING
POLITICAL NEWS AND OTHER COM-
MUNICATIONS TO THE TIMES TO
THE NECESSITY OF SIGNING THEIR
NAMES TO SUCH REPORTS, AS IT IS
THE RULE OF THIS PAPER NOT TO
PUBLISH ANY ARTICLE THE NAME
OF WHICH AUTHOR IS UNKNOWN.

The price of The Times is two cents per
copy and ten cents per week, delivered
within the limits of Richmond and Manches-
ter. Sunday paper three cents.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1897.

TO-DAY'S MEETINGS AND EVENTS.

Richmond Commandery, K. T. Masonic
Temple.
Marshall Lodge, K. of P., Lee Camp
Hall.
Fitzhugh Lodge, I. O. O. F., Eagle Hall.
Friendship Lodge, I. O. O. F., Odd-Fel-
lows' Hall.
Jamestown Tribe, I. O. O. F., Odd-Fel-
lows' Hall.
Continental Lodge, K. of H., Thon's Hall.
Capital Lodge, K. of H., Ellet's Hall.
Rescue Council, Jr. O. U. A. M., Beidlers
Hall.
H. Council, Jr. O. U. A. M., Jr. O. U.
M. Hall.
Liberty Council, Jr. O. U. A. M., Cera-
ley's Hall.
Manchester Council, R. A., Toney's Hall.
Elba Council, R. A., Lamb's Hall.
Richmond Council, Home Circle, Central
Hall.
Virginia Council, Chosen Friends, Ellet's
Hall.
Trinity Lodge, I. O. G. T., Central Hall.
Central Beneficial and Social Society, Lee
Camp Hall.
Company F, First Regiment, Army.
Company F, First Regiment, Army.
R. I. Blues, Blues' Army.
Richmond Howitzers, Howitzers' Army.
St. Mary's Beneficial and Social Society,
St. Mary's Hall.
Jefferson Council, Jr. O. U. A. M., Jr. O.
U. M. Hall.
Washington-Lee Senate, Knights of the
Ancient Essene Order, St. Albans Hall.

THE MACHINE WISS.

Governor Bushnell, of Ohio, has yield-
ed to the machine and has agreed to ap-
point Mark Hanna as Senator in Congress
from that State to succeed Senator Sher-
man, when that gentleman shall have re-
signed his post to accept a position in
McKinley's Cabinet.

This is an exhibition of small politics,
and the distinct triumph of the machine.
Hanna is not Governor Bushnell's choice
as is well known, and the Foraker elec-
tion brought strong pressure to bear
upon him in favor of another candidate.
But the machine was for Hanna and the
machine has won.

Mark Hanna is in no sense a statesman,
and the question of merit and qualifica-
tion has not figured in his selection. He
managed the McKinley campaign and suc-
ceeded in electing his man to the Presi-
dency. He was offered a position in
McKinley's Cabinet but declined it, and
asked as the reward for his services a
seat in the United States Senate. He
will receive his appointment, therefore,
not because of his fitness or his superior
qualification over others, but as a reward
for party service.

This sort of thing discourages states-
manship and patriotism, and stimulates
men rather to party activity. But it il-
lustrates the compactness of the Repub-
lican organization. It is a class party
and it always takes care of its own.
Moreover it is a principle of that party
that the behest of the party powers must
be obeyed. McKinley is now at the head
of the party and his dictum is law. We
may reasonably expect, therefore, that
the Republican members of Congress will
be swift to carry out the policy of the
President, and whatever may be said
against that policy, it will soon be defined
and the business men of the country will
know what to expect. There is at least
that much to be said in favor of the in-
coming administration.

THE PRICE OF GAS.

They are having a great newspaper war
in New York about the price of gas. The
World and Journal are making a great
cry for dollar gas, and the Sun declares
that nobody wants dollar gas except
these newspapers and that they are deman-
ding it for the simple purpose of advertis-
ing themselves. The World in reply says
that it has been receiving bars full of
mail endorsing its position, and declares
that the Sun is resisting this demand be-
cause it is the organ of monopoly. We
shall not take part in the fight, but refer
to the matter by way of mentioning the
interesting statement made by the World
that the gas companies of New York are
paying from six to eight per cent.
dividend on stocks that are watered from
six to tenfold and every dollar of which
has been paid back to the subscribers six
times over. In other words, says the
World, these people who pay nothing for
the privilege of using the public streets
have already received six dollars for

every dollar put into the business, and
are still getting every year twenty-five
cents dividend on every dollar of their
original investment.

A gas plant is a most valuable franchise
and no city should part with such a fran-
chise except for a most valuable consid-
eration. Richmond is fortunate in own-
ing her gas plant, and while it has not
been always well managed, the people do
not get a very good article of gas for one
dollar, while in our sister city, Peters-
burg, where the plant is owned by a pri-
vate corporation gas is sold for \$1.50 a
thousand.

AN INTELLIGENT OPPONENT OF
STATE BANKS.

The letter from Warrenton, Va., signed
Farmer, which was published in Sunday's
Times contained an argumentative state-
ment of objections to State banks of in-
terest, which are a real contribution to the
discussion. Men who think that they
dispose of the subject by epithets, slurs
and ridicule are not worthy of serious at-
tention. But where an opponent of the
system brings forward well-considered ar-
guments like those of our correspondent,
they should be met with arguments of
the same character, and progress will
then be made toward just conclusions,
whatever direction those conclusions may
take. The gist of what our correspond-
ent has to say is contained in the follow-
ing passage from his letter.

When the farmer gets a dollar he wants
the best dollar, not a cheap one. If he
has corn to sell, he has no difficulty in
getting good money for it, nor do we
find difficulty in getting the best money in
pay for our cattle or hogs or peanuts or
tobacco; if we have any for sale.

When we have nothing to sell we cannot
get money at all—good or bad. And if
we try to get money on horse, it is very
difficult—not only here in the country,
but even in the great city of Richmond.

Now, if we had local banks of issue,
how would it help the farmer? Would it
make the price of corn or cattle or to-
bacco higher? We can always get the
best money now for our produce, and we
would be apt to demand United States
notes for our produce when we sold it,
for we want only the best money in pay
for our low price produce.

The proposition is to have good State
bank notes. The First National Bank
of Richmond and the Planters National
Bank of Richmond, for example are both
sound banks and both have out their
notes. If these banks should surrender
their national charter and take State
charters, does our correspondent suppose
that they would thereafter be less good
banks than they are, or that their notes
would become bad notes?

For twenty odd years before the war
the banks of Virginia had out an average
circulation of more than \$10,000,000
which was as good as any notes this coun-
try ever saw, and no man before the war
ever lost a dollar by a Virginia bank
note. Why could we not again have notes
of States banks just as good as those?

The proposition of those who advocate
State banks of issue is that their notes
shall be payable on demand in gold coin
under the severest penalties, and it is
also expected that the State Legislature
will provide effective safeguards to se-
cure the notes, though The Times thinks
that the more the matter is left to the
laws of business and the less statute
law we have, the better it would be. We
can see no reason to suppose such notes
would be bad notes and we insist that if
it is necessary to take precaution to
protect the public against bad notes, the
Virginia Legislature is just as capable
of devising those precautions as the Con-
gress of the United States.

The next question raised by our cor-
respondent which it seems important to
discuss is implied in his suggestion that
if a Virginia farmer has anything to sell
he can now get for it United States
money. That is very true, but ability to
send products away and exchange them
for money that is located at the distant
place, and having at the farmer's door an
abundance of circulating media of which
he can always command a sufficient
amount for any enterprises he wishes to
embark in are two radically different
things. Though he can always send his
wheat or corn to a seaport and exchange it
there for United States money, yet
when he has paid that away in the seaport
for the clothes and groceries that his
family needs he has nothing with which
to buy the fertilizers and hire the labor
necessary for the next crop. But if
there were a bank at his county seat
that could issue its notes, he could borrow
those notes, buy his fertilizers and hire his
labor, and make his crop without difficulty.

There is one meritorious point in the
proposition of the free coiners, and that
is their claim of the necessity for an un-
limited supply. There must be enough
for every locality to have enough at all
times of circulating medium. Their
error is in supposing that this should be
actual coined money. But while prosper-
ing business demands unlimited cir-
culating medium, it neither needs nor
will have much coined money. Business
will not transact its affairs with coined
money. That is a usage of unenlightened
ages that steam and electricity have
caused business to discard. Business
says it can transact its affairs with
notes that are far more convenient than
coined money and that it will not have
the coined money. More coined money
therefore, would not help the case even
if it were money of full value, but coined
money that is worth only half of what
men are to be compelled to take it for
would be simply destructive of society.

But Mr. Herbert Spencer says in his
third and last volume of his great work
just out, that money—a circulating me-
dium—has done more for promoting the
evolution of society to its present state
than any other and all agencies, and he is
right. We must have just as much cir-
culating medium as all can have any use
for, but, under conditions, that cir-
culating medium must be credit instruments
and not coined money. It must not even
be circulating notes. It may be and ac-
tually is, checks on banks, but there are
great districts where checks on banks
will not do, and in those districts there
must be circulating notes. When we get
a banking system that will give these dis-
tricts, an abundance of circulating notes,
then we will have a contented people, but
never until then.

How are they to be had? They cannot
by any possibility be had except by hav-
ing them issued upon local credit. When
they are so issued they will stay amongst
the people of the locality. But as soon
as the national credit is put behind them
they become good all over the nation and
they leave the locality for the commercial
centers.

THE OLD AND TRUE DEMOCRACY.

It has been the policy of The Times to
stand for American manhood and in-
dividual liberty, and to protest against all
forms of Socialism, Paternalism, and Gov-
ernment interference with private rights
and private business.

In taking this stand we have preached
pure Democracy as we understand it, and
yet we have been harshly criticized as
though we were preaching some strange
doctrine.

But there is nothing new in this doc-
trine. It is as old as the Republic. We
are much pleased with an editorial on
this subject from the New York Journal
of Commerce, which is a recognized au-
thority in this country on questions of
business and finance. In referring to
those who desire to extend Government
control over the widest possible sphere of
activity, the Journal of Commerce de-
clares that this is not at all a Democratic
idea—he essence of Democracy being the
restriction of Government interference
within the narrowest bounds compatible
with the performance of certain delegated
functions. It was Populism, and not
Democracy, which triumphed at Chi-
cago, it says, and when the Populists
spoke their minds freely at St. Louis, they
demanded the issue of "a national money"

by some just, equitable, and efficient
means of distribution direct to the peo-
ple, Government ownership of railroads
and telegraph lines, and the employment
of labor on public works.

Referring next to the popular delusion
that the Government can make 50 cents
worth of silver equal to a dollar in value
by its fiat, the Journal of Commerce
adds:

That the State can create prosperity by
legislation is a fancy that has been in-
dustriously cultivated by many people
who get against it when it appears in
the guise of Socialism or Populism. It is
a fallacy which must receive the stamp
of popular discredit before we shall be
rid of the pestiferous brood of unde-
clared delusions which it has propagated.
With it must disappear the twin fallacy
that any work of general public utility
can be better and more cheaply done by
governmental than by any other agency.

In point of fact, the Government in-
variably provides the most costly and the
least capable methods of doing any kind
of work whatever.

The Postoffice Department is constantly
held up by the Socialists as evidence that
the Government can successfully transact
business for the people, but the Journal
of Commerce calls attention to the fact
that it is the deliberate judgment of the
chairman of the House Committee on
Postoffices and Postroads that private
means could as well or better be adapted
to the transmission of our mails, which
could be so done much more cheaply, with
quicker dispatch and better satisfaction
to the people.

We have no sort of doubt of this. If
the Government should decide to go out
of the postal business, private companies
would be organized in less than thirty
days to undertake to transmit the mails
of the country at a less rate of postage
than the Government now charges.

It has recently been shown that by
abuse of the privilege of what is known
as second-class matter, the Government
has lost millions of dollars, and, from our
examination of this question, we are satis-
fied that no private corporation would for
a moment have tolerated such an abuse.
It almost invariably happens that it costs
the Government more than it costs in-
dividuals to do a given work, and this is
true of State and municipal Government
as well as of the national Government.
It is not hard to find a reason for this
when we reflect that individuals con-
duct their affairs on business principles,
and can and do act quickly to meet an
emergency, whereas the Government's af-
fairs are invariably mixed up with poli-
tics, and reforms, if made at all, must
necessarily be slow.

In conclusion, the Journal of Commerce
says there is but one rule which can be
applied to all forms of governmental
interference with business which can be
done without Government aid, and that is
contained in the compact formula, "hands
off."

But to show that we are not preaching a
strange doctrine or a new doctrine, we
call up a higher authority, and an older
authority than the Journal of Commerce.
In 1831 this country had a financial
panic—one of the worst that the country
has ever known. There was a period of
hard times similar to the period through
which the country has just passed. Mr.
Van Buren was President, having been
elected by the Democrats, and in his
message to Congress, in speaking of the
financial situation, he said:

"I cannot doubt that on this, as on all
similar occasions, the Federal Govern-
ment will find its agency most conducive
to the security and happiness of the peo-
ple, when limited to the exercise of its
conceded powers. In never assuming,
even for a well-meaning object, such powers
as were not assigned to it, or conferred
upon it, we shall, in reality, do most for
the general welfare. To avoid every un-
necessary interference with the pursuits
of the citizen will result in more benefit
than to adopt measures which could only
interfere with the ordinary operations of
commerce, and are eagerly and perhaps
naturally sought for under the pressure
of temporary circumstances. If, therefore,
I refrain from suggesting to Congress
any specific plan for regulating the ex-
changes of the country, relieving mercantile embarrassments, or in-
terfering with the ordinary operations of
foreign or domestic commerce, it is from
a conviction that such measures are not
within the constitutional province of the
general Government, and that their adop-
tion would not promote the real and per-
manent welfare of those they might be
designed to aid."

Now when those who declare that they
represent true Democracy undertake to
infringe the Democracy of this paper, and
to denounce the principles which we
teach, we refer them to these words of a
Democratic President, who lived sixty
years ago. The Times is preaching no
new doctrine, but the old doctrine of
Democracy, pure and simple.

Atlanta newspaperdom is stirred. Each
of the two evening papers claims to have
the largest circulation of any evening
paper between Atlanta and New Orleans.
One now comes forward and posts a for-
feit to back up the claim that the other
"is the biggest liar" between the points
named. This may raise a Howl (or it
may all turn out to be a Howl).

Kansas wants a bust of her first gov-
ernor. It is wanted perhaps to go with
the "bust" she made on this last one.

To the astonishment of his hearers at
a recent banquet Senator-Elect Platt
sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."
Just billing himself ahead as a "Jingo"

addition to the august tribe of Morgan
perhaps.

The Missouri Legislature has stopped
its attack on bloomers long enough to
send a committee to see the Corbett-Fitz-
simmons fight, just to report as to the
real brutality of such exhibitions.

"Concert of the Powers," sounds well,
but it develops a wonderful amount of
discord.

Ouida has written Secretary Olney
against the restricting of immigration, a
bill for which is before Congress. She
asks: "Why should you suppose the power
to spell out the crimes recorded in
cheap newspapers is any guarantee for
either virtue or intelligence?" Ouida's
own novels might be used as a test, sure-
ly a familiarity with them would be suf-
ficient grounds for suspicion.

Colonel Watterston says bimetalism is
all moonshine and being from Kentucky
it is likely that the Colonel means this
for straight goods.

That corner on terrapins may result
in a large attendance of calf heads at the
inaugural ball.

The recent bank robbery by Georgia
negroes will prove elating to the New
Englanders who have suffered for their
advancement.

The New York Journal yesterday print-
ed an alleged interview with Senator
Sherman in which he was represented
as favoring war with Spain at once on
account of the Ruiz affair. It was "might-
y interesting reading," and the only thing
to mar it was Sherman's statement that
"it is a lie from beginning to end."

Staff talent.
The new journal of the east al-
ready has King George of Greece on its
staff as foreign correspondent. Pope Leo
is religious editor of one newspaper, Vi-
ctoria Regina is putting up society gossip
for another and John H. Henszler is do-
ing night police and the morgue for a
third.—Chicago Chronicle.

By His Own Fireside.
It may snow in Washington on in-
auguration day, as a weather prophet
predicts, but Mr. Bryan will probably be
warm. Keep his feet warm.—Chicago
Times-Herald.

Force of Habit.
First Baggage-man—Wot did yer smart
dat feller's face in fer? He wasn't
doin' nuttin'.

Second Baggage-man—I know, but his
face wuz marked "with care"—Life.

The League.
They have tampered with old Jonah,
And the wimple is labeled mud;
They're sure to tackle Noah,
And thus desecrate the flood;
They'll fall down hard on Samson,
For poor old, harmless Adam;
They're chasing after Lot,
For poor old, harmless Adam;
They'll let him make it hot;
Let Abasalom and Joab;
Prepare to jump the track,
For there's no sort of telling
Who these chaps will next attack.
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

AUGUSTUS OF SYRIA.

Senator Hoar is one of the best-read
men in the Senate. His prodigious mem-
ory enables him to quote at an instant's
notice the verses of Homer, the Greek prose
which he regards as fitting the occasion.
John Nicholas Brown, son of the late
John Carter Brown, millionaire manu-
facturer, of Rhode Island, has given the
trustees of the public library of Provid-
ence \$200,000 for the new library building.

Governor Lowndes, of Maryland, admits
that as a farmer he has been a complete
failure. Unlike most unsuccessful farm-
ers, he says it was not his fault. He
had the farm, but because he doesn't understand
the business.

Miss McKinley, a favorite niece of the
late President, and her husband, a second
cousin of the defeated Democratic candi-
date for the Presidency, have entered
Mount Holyoke, the first of the class of 1901.
They are now boarding together in the South
Hadley house.

M. Oestre, of Paris, who recently bought
the castle of Malmaison, is having every
word in it translated into English. His
best-known rooms are Napoleon's study,
billiard-room and drawing-room, and the
chapel where Empress Josephine died.
La Petite Malmaison, where Josephine
had her greenhouses, has already been
restored.

The English governor of Alfonso XIII.
of Spain is responsible for a story
about her royal charge. His majesty
expressed one day at luncheon a
strong preference for fingers in
place of forks. After he had
offered several times in this way his
governess remonstrated gently. "Sir,
fingers do not go with these dishes."
"This king does," came the gleeful reply.

A St. Paul judge has awarded a citizen
\$10,000 damages because a motorman refused
to stop a car for him.

On the marble steps of a peasant's
house on the island of Salamis have been
found two lines of the epitaph composed
by the poet Pindar, the military leader
soldiers who fell in the sea fight, carved
in Corinthian characters. It is hoped
that the place of the Pindaric fragments
may soon be discovered.

Japan's new battleship Yashima, soon
to have her trial, is described as being
all white, her displacement, 12,000 tons,
while her displacement with all her armament
and stores, will be about 12,320 tons. This
is little more than that of our heaviest
battleships, but she carries 2000 tons of
that of the English Maitland class. Her
speed is said to be 18 1/2 knots an hour; at natural draught, 19 1/2
knots.

The State Department has received a
report from Consul Agent Robinson, at
Norfolk Island, South Pacific, announcing
that the famous Pitcairn community there,
which for over forty years has governed
themselves, has been abolished by sending
the community to Norfolk Island with
the commission from the governor of New
South Wales on board, who proposed to
install a magistrate and incorporate the
island as a part of New South Wales.

It is said that the gold mine which has
been discovered at Longstreet's
property near Gainesville, Ga., yields from
25 to 512 per ton of the precious metal.
Silver is said to vary from eight inches
to two and a half in diameter.

The German Emperor, it is said, has a
tea tray that was beaten out of an old
British shipwreck. The tray is made of
German farthing, and tiny cups made
from coins of the several German prin-
ciple.

According to the annual report of the
London fire department, just issued, there
is an average of ten fires a day in the
British metropolis. During 1896 there were
101 fires lost by fire, and no less than
400 instances of false alarms maliciously
given are recorded.

Chief Nicholson determined that the
law abolishing the knot in his dominions
shall be observed. A magistrate who
fifty strokes has been dismissed from his
post and sentenced to six months impris-
onment for disobedience of law.

Two noteworthy concessions have just
been granted by the Anglo-Egyptian gov-
ernment to the English company con-
trolling the Suez Canal. One is the
filling up of the Khali canal, which runs
through the Egyptian capital, and is
the N. W. Nile. The other concession
is for laying a trolley line from Cairo
to the great pyramids at Gizeh.

Dinner, He Said He, Wife Was Mean.

SOCIAL AND OTHERWISE.

ONE DAY'S NEWS IN FASHIONABLE
RICHMOND.

Yesterday afternoon at the Woman's Club.
Private Entertainments.
Persons.

"Thoughts on Education" was the sub-
ject for yesterday afternoon at the Woman's
Club, and Miss Jennie Ellett, the
chairman. The weather was certainly not
conducive to the subject, but Miss Ellett's pleasant
reputation for doing well whatever she
does at all drew to the club parlors quite
a good audience, including, as guests of
the chair, Mrs. Mathews and Harrison,
Mrs. Herbert A. Claiborne, Miss Ella
Thomas and Miss Jessie Hall. Miss El-
lett was assisted in presenting her sub-
ject by Miss Mary Blair, Miss Louisa
Blair, and Miss Florence Peple, and at
the conclusion of the afternoon Mrs.
Charles Livingston presented a graceful
bouquet of flowers to the chairman.

Miss Maria Blair's contribution to the
programme opened with a sentence from
a letter written by Mrs. H. M. H. prin-
cipal of the kindergarten department of
the Ethical Culture Schools of New York,
emphasizing, in Miss Blair's opinion, the
importance of education to the child with
more information. The literal meaning
of the two words was then given, and,
proceeding, took a retrospect to the views
in this connection held by early educa-
tors in Virginia. She paid glowing tribute
to the University of Virginia, and to a
school in Hanover county taught by a Mr.
Charles Livingston, in the latter connection,
Professor Edward Jones' opinion regard-
ing Mr. Coleman's wonderful gifts as a
teacher. "Now," said Miss Blair, "Wash-
ington and Lee, and others have adopted
the elective system, and otherwise mod-
ified themselves after the University of
Virginia, which I think shall have graced
them with such dignity and power as
the parent institution, they will be
praised by the chorus of praise in honor of
the Declaration of Independence, and of
the status of Virginia for religious
liberty, yet would not have it forgotten
that was the father of the University
of Virginia. When the Virginia Univer-
sity can command sufficient money, she
surely will follow the example of Harvard
in dispensing her treasures to the people
by means of popular lectures, delivered
by her professors, and undergraduates.
Then may these two leading educational
institutions, in the latter in honor of
the Declaration of Independence, and of
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